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FULL TEXT PRIME MINISTER KY'S SPEECH TO AUGUST 1 SEMINAR ON ELECTIONS TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TRANSMITTED FBIS DTG S-020355, S-020410, AND S-020415.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dawn Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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AUGUST 03.

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: ELECTIONS SEMINAR

1. CLOSING CEREMONY OF NATIONAL ELECTION SEMINAR HELD AFTERNOON AUGUST 3 AT DIEN HONG CONFERENCE HALL. SPEECHES GIVEN BY GENERAL LINH QUANG VIEN, COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITY; GENERAL NGUYEN DUC THANG; MINISTER OF REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT, GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CHIEU HOI; REPRESENTATIVE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTIES OF FOUR CORPS AREAS; AND REPRESENTATIVE OF PROVINCE CHIEFS.

2. GENERAL VIEN EXPRESSED GVN DETERMINATION TO PROTECT VOTERS AND CANDIDATES. GENERAL TRI OUTLINED STEPS BEING TAKEN TO PUBLICIZ ELECTION. (PROVINCIAL VIS REPRESENTATIVES WILL STAY IN TOWN TWO MORE DAYS TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL DETAILS OF VIS RESPONSIBILITY.) GENERAL THANG REVIEWED OUTCOME OF SEMINAR, AND DEGREE TO WHICH FOL

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IMPORTANT GOALS ARE BEING PURSUED: 1) TO MOBILIZE VOTERS, 2) TO CARRY OUT ELECTION EFFICIENTLY, 3) TO DEMONSTRATE SINCERITY OF ELECTION, 4) TO PREVENT COMMUNIST INFILTRATION. PEOPLE SHOWING GREAT INTEREST IN ELECTION, AND ELECTION LISTS CONTAIN 4,937,923 NAMES TO DATE. ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS COMING ALONG WELL, AND GVN WILL SEND ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL TO PROVINCES TO ASSIST FURTHER.

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3. GENERAL KY ASKED FOR COOPERATION OF ASSEMBLED OFFICIALS IN CARRYING OUT ELECTION. THIS NOT VIET-NAM'S FIRST ELECTION, BUT WILL BE ITS BEST. IF ALL OFFICIALS COOPERATE, ELECTION WILL BE SUCCESS AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE GOOD ONE.

4. KY SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED REINS OF GOVERNMENT OUT OF SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, JUST AS HE WOULD ACCEPT MILITARY ORDER. DURING HIS TENURE, MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MILITARY FRONT, IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOCIETY, AND IN STABILIZING ECONOMY. EVEN JORE IMPORTANT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY. KY REITERATED SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AUGUST 2 THAT WHEN FINAL DUTY IS FULFILLED, CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED, KY WILL RETURN TO MILITARY. HE APPEALED TO ASSEMBLED OFFICERS TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THIS MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY. LODGE

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1. ON AUGUST 2 WE DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF OBSERVERS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN DO. HE INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR UTILIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR AND PRESS CORPS AS BEST APPROACH TO OBSERVATION. FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD INVITE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS TO OBSERVE PREPARATIONS AND ELECTIONS IN SAME MANNER AS PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. GVN COULD IN EFFECT TAKE LEAF FROM SIHANOUK'S BOOK BY UTILIZING SUCH OBSERVERS.

RSR 2. WE BELIEVE THAT VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR MORE OR LESS FORMALIZED INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION OF VIET-NAM ELECTIONS RAISE TWO PROBLEMS. FIRST IS SUGGESTION OF DEROGATION OF

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 2561 C O N F I D E N T I A L
VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS. SECOND IS IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON GVN IN "CARE AND FEEDING" OF ANY SUCH GROUP. THERE IS REALLY NO NEED TO RAISE EITHER PROBLEMS SINCE TWO BUILT-IN OBSERVER GROUPS ALREADY EXIST AND WILL BE FUNCTIONING ANYWAY.

(1) 3. THERE IS THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF LAOS, ITALY, NEWZEALAND, TURKEY, KOREA, UPPER VOLTA, UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, GERMANY, CHINA, PHILIPPINES, BELGIUM, SWEDEN, USA, THAILAND, GREECE, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, DENMARK, HOLY SEE, MALAYSIA, AUSTRIA, FRANCE, INDIA, NORWAY, PANAMA, PORTUGAL, AND SWITZERLAND. THERE ARE FIFTEEN AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES RESIDENT IN SAIGON PLUS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE, SIX RESIDENT IN BANGKOK AND ONE IN TOKYO. THERE ARE SIX CONSULS AND FOUR HONORARY CONSULS RESIDENT IN SAIGON. ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE OBSERVING THE ELECTIONS IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES.

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4. THERE IS ALSO A RESIDENT FOREIGN PRESS CORPS OF ABOUT THREE HUNDRED.

5. IN SEMINAR SESSION AUGUST 1, PRIME MINISTER WY SAID:

"TO ILLUSTRATE THE LIBERAL AND SINCERE CHARACTER OF THE ELECTIONS, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WILL BE INVITED ON ELECTION DAY TO GO INTO THE PROVINCES TO OBSERVE THE VOTING.

"FURTHERMORE, BEFORE ELECTION DAY, VIETNAMESE AS WELL AS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WILL BE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY THE DELEGATIONS WHICH GO INTO THE PROVINCES TO OBSERVE THE PREPARATIONS."
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NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 1:30 A.M. AUGUST 3, 1966

PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA, 8/3/66 - 1:30 A.M.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF A) SAIGON 2631; B) SAIGON 2658

1. PARTICIPANTS AT SEMINAR ON ELECTIONS ADOPTED RESOLUTION WITH FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: "ALL THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE AUG 1-3 SEMINAR AT THE DIEN HONG CONFERENCE HALL INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS IN THE FOUR CORPS AREAS, PREFECTS, PROVINCE CHIEFS, MAYORS, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CHIEFS AND INFORMATION SERVICE CHIEFS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: 1) DETERMINED TO PREPARE AND ORGANIZE A LEGAL ABSOLUTELY FAIR AND FREE ELECTION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. 2) DETERMINED TO EXPLAIN AND ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO ENTHUSIASTICALLY CARRY OUT THEIR DUTY OF CITIZENS OF A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, THAT IS TO VOTE CORRECTLY AND DISCRIMINATELY FOR ONE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ASSEMBLY. 3) DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE FROM THE RANKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THOSE ELEMENTS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WORK FOR THE COMMUNISTS AND THE PRO-COMMUNISTS NEUTRALISTS."

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2. IN ADDITION TO KY SPEECH (REF B), PORTIONS OF SPEECH BY MINISTER OF REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT GENERAL THANG WHO CHAIRED SEMINAR ARE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. NOTEWORTHY PARAGRAPHS FROM VIET NAM PRESS TRANSLATION OF SPEECH ARE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE A. ALTHOUGH TIME LEFT FOR PREPARATION IS RELATIVELY SHORT, THE VOTERS' LISTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN THE

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VARIOUS PROVINCES ON SCHEDULE. THE FIRST POSTING, MADE ON JULY 16, 1966 SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS REACHED 4,937,923. DURING THE POSTING PERIOD, THE POPULATION SHOWED A LIVELY INTEREST IN CHECKING THEIR NAMES AND LODGING CLAIMS. THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS REFUGEES IN PARTICULAR HAVE ASKED THE SEMINAR TO PROPOSE A POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEADLINE TO LODGE CLAIMS TO AUGUST 8, 1966. THUS IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE NUMBER OF THE VOTERS WILL INCREASE BY 100,000 TO 200,000 AT THE SECOND POSTING, AS PREVIOUSLY FORECAST BY THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES. IN REGARD TO VOTER CARDS, THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE PROVINCES FOR DISTRIBUTION DOWN TO VILLAGES. CERTAIN DELAYS IN THE CARD DISTRIBUTION WERE EXPERIENCED IN SOME AREAS, DUE TO TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.

IN THE CAPITAL, CARDS ARE BEING MADE READY FOR THE VOTERS LISTED IN THE FIRST POSTING. CARDS FOR THOSE WHOSE NAMES FAILED TO APPEAR IN THE POSTED LISTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THEM STARTING AUGUST 13.

B. CANDIDATES. APPLICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY WERE RECEIVED IN GREAT NUMBERS. ACCORDING TO THE FIRST POSTING MADE JULY 14, 1966, THE COUNTRY HAS 629 CANDIDATES (133 ON SINGLE RUNNING TICKETS AND 496 ON 248 ASSOCIATE RUNNING TICKETS). THERE IS ALSO A LIST OF 87 ASSOCIATE CANDIDATES WHICH BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO 716. THAT IS AN AVERAGE OF 6 CONTESTANTS FOR ONE SEAT. THE TOTAL INCLUDES 23 VIETNAMESE OF KHMER DESCENT FOR 4 SEATS RESERVED FOR BA XUYEN, VINH BINH, KIEN GIANG AND CHAU DOC.

THE CANDIDATE LIST INCLUDES AMONG OTHERS.

91 UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL TEACHERS

64 CIVIL SERVANTS OR FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

56 MILITARY

54 MEMBERS OF LOCAL ELECTED-COUNCILS

51 MEMBERS OF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS (LAWYERS, DOCTORS, PHARMACISTS, ETC...)

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51 INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN

14 STATESMEN AND NOTABLES

4 JUDGES

THE REMAINING PEOPLE ARE FARMERS, LANDOWNERS, WORKERS AND STUDENTS. THE LIST INCLUDES 22 WOMEN. THE LOCAL ELECTORAL COUNCILS HAVE WORKED IN AN OBJECTIVE MANNER IN RE-CHECKING THE LISTS OF THE CANDIDATES.

ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS PUBLISHED ON JULY 22, 1966 A TOTAL OF 80 APPLICANTS FOR CANDIDATURE HAVE BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF IRREGULARITIES IN FILING OR BECAUSE THEY DID NOT MEET REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR RUNNING.

OUT OF THIS TOTAL, 37 SENT CLAIMS TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL CHAIRED BY THE FIRST JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS. THESE CASES INCLUDED:

13 CASES OF ELIMINATION CAUSED BY THE PAST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CANDIDATES.

13 CASES OF ELMINIATION DUE TO PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES AND

11 CASES WHEREBY THE CANDIDATES WERE RULED OUT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT MEET THE REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR CANDIATES. THE CENTRAL COUNCIL IS PRESENTLY AT WORK PREPARING THE FINAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SECOND POSTING SCHEDULED FOR AUG 12, 1966. THANKS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL COUNCILS AND THE CENTRAL COUNCIL, THERE ARE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT PRO-COMMUNIST OR PRO-NEUTRALIST CANDIDATES WILL BE ELIMINIATED FROM THE LISTS AND BANNED FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE FUTURE ASSEMBLY. LODGE
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NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 10:20 A.M., 8-4-66.

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C. VOTING BOOTHS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTING BOOTHS PLANNED FOR THE COUNTRY IS 5,200, OR AN AVERAGE OF ONE PER 1,000 VOTERS. PRESENTLY, THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY AUTHORITIES ARE ACTIVE IN PREPARING THE BOOTHS. BY LATE THIS MONTH, THE CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES IN CHARGE OF THE VOTING BOOTHS WILL BE APPOINTED AND GIVEN APPROPRIATE TRAINING.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE SEMINAR HAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO APPLY THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO MAKE THE ELECTION SUCCESSFUL:

IN THE PROVINCES, IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SET UP A STANDING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE PROVINCE CHIEF, INFORMATION AND SECURITY SERVICES OFFICERS AND WILL

BE IN CHARGE OF SUPERVISING THE ELECTION PROCEDURES AND ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVITY OF RESPONSIBLE BODIES AND SUGGESTING AND PROPOSING TO THE ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE ANY APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE ELECTION.

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AS FAR AS THE VOTERS ARE CONCERNED, THE SEMINAR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THOSE HAMLETS IN WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT CADRES HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME ARE LISTED AS SECURE ENOUGHT FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS. THUS, VOTING BOOTHS WILL BE INSTALLED THERE AS IF THE ADMINSTRATIVE APPARATUS HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE.

- REFUGEES WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER EASILY.

- OTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS ALSO DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES IN MONTAGNARD AREAS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING BOOTHS (ESPECIALLY THE DOUBLE VOTING ONES IN PROVINCES WHERE VIETNAMESE OF CAMBODIAN DESCENT DWELL) THE VOTING OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE SERVING TEMPORARILY IN THE AREAS WHERE THEY ARE NOT REGISTERED AS VOTERS; THE CASES OF OTHERS WHO CANNOT RETURN TO THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, THE MOBILIZATION OF LOCAL NOTABLES AND DIGNITARIES IN THE POLLS CONTROL, CLAIM PROCEDURES, ETC... FINALLY, THE MEETING ALSO APPROVED THE PUBLICATION OF A SIMPLE AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND PAMPHLET BEING DRAFTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION TO HELP THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTION BOOTHS IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THEIR DUTY.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES. AFTER THE REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES AND VIEWPOINTS THE SEMINAR HAS DEVOTED ITS ATTENTION TO THE STUDY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY MORNING IN ORDER TO DRAFT AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF WORK IN THE FUTURE. THE FIRST PROBLEM IS TO LAUNCH AN EFFECTIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR THE PEOPLE. THE SEMINAR STATED THAT THERE IS NEEDED A CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND INFORMATION AGENCIES IN ORDER TO MOBILIZE ALL MEANS AND URGE THE PEOPLE TO UTILIZE THEIR VOTING RIGHTS. THIS PART WILL SPECIALIZE IN:

A) THE ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES FOR THE PERSONNEL IN CHARGE OF THE ELECTIONS ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE CHARGE OF THE VOTING BOOTHS.

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B) STUDY PROCEDURES TO DELIVER THE VOTERS' CARDS MOST EFFECTIVELY.

C) INSTALL VOTING POLLS AT CONVENIENT PLACES FOR THE VOTERS.

-THE SECOND PROBLEM IS TO PREPARE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS CAREFULLY. THE SEMINAR APPROVES THE PLAN TO MOBILIZE MANPOWER FOR THE ELECTIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SECURITY, INFORMATION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION CADRES. THE MEMBERS OF THE SEMINAR APPROVE THE MOBILIZATION OF ALL OTHER PERSONNEL AND CADRES FOR THE ELECTIONS. AS FOR THE OFFICER CANDIDATES AND STUDENTS OF THE N.I.A., THE CONFERENCE SUGGESTS THE UTILIZATION OF THESE PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF LOCALITIES AND TO THE ABILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL. MEANWHILE NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION MEANS MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE GENERAL STAFF IN ORDER TO SEND THE PERSONNEL TO LOCALITIES BEFORE SEPT 1.

-THE THIRD PROBLEM IS TO PROVE THE FREEDOM, SINCERITY, AND HONESTY OF THE ELECTIONS. THE SEMINAR APPROVES THE SUGGESTION TO SEND A CENTRAL DELEGATION, LED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO INSPECT AND CONTROL THE PREPARATIONS OF ELECTION AT THE LOCALITIES.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE INFILTRATION OF THE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS INTO THE ASSEMBLY THE SEMINAR WOULD LIKE TO SEE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE CONSTITUDENT ASSEMBLY FOR ANY ATTEMPTS BY THE COMMUNISTS TO INFILTRATE THE ASSEMBLY BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTION.

F. ACTION PROGRAMS. IN CONCLUSIN, THE DELEGATES DECIDED TO ESTABLISH FIVE ACTIONS PROGRAMS AT EACH LOCALITY AS FOLLOW:

1) A PRACTICAL TRAINING PLAN FOR ALL PERSONNEL IN CHARGE OF THE ELECTION ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF THE VOTING BOOTHS.

2) MANPOWER MOBILIZATION PLAN TO EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTER THE ELECTION.

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3) OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION PLAN TO BE CARRIED O[illegible] BY PROVINCE CHIEFS.

4) SECURITY AND PROTECTION PLANS FOR VOTERS, CANDIDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AT THE POLLS.

5) REPORT PLANS TO THE PEOPLE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY ANALYSIS OF NUMBER AND PROFESSION CANDIDATES DOES NOT ACCORD COMPLETELY WITH THAT PRESENTED BY GENERAL THANG. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION FROM ALL PROVINCES SO OUR ANALYSIS AS YET INCOMPLETE. LODGE
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Advance copy to S/S-O at 10:55 a.m. 8/4/66
Passed to White House, DOD, CIA, USIA & NSA
at 10:55 a.m. 8/4/66

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